
FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE PROCEDURES
(TAB 16)

December 2003

1. Purpose and Scope:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide policies and procedures for the disposal of Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) generated during field training exercises (FTXs), ranges, etc.

2. References:

- a. MEDDAC Regulation 40-71 Management of RMW
- b. MEDDAC Regulation 40-35 Management of RMW
- c. TDEC, Division of Solid Waste Management, Chapter 1200-1-7-01
- d. 401 KAR 47:005, Solid Waste Facilities

3. Definitions:

RMW is defined as a waste, which is potentially capable of causing disease in man, and may pose a risk to either individuals or community health if not handled or treated properly. Sometimes called "Infectious Waste," "Biohazardous Waste," or "Medical Waste." RMW consists of several different classes. For the purposes of this bulletin, the only classes that will be listed are that that may be generated during field training exercises (FTXs).

Class 1 – Cultures, Stocks, and Vaccines. Examples include cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals, including cultures from medical and pathological laboratories; discarded live and attenuated vaccines; and culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures. (All other lab waste except Class 2 and Class 3 is considered general waste.)

Class 3 – Blood and Blood Products. Examples include:

- (a) Free flowing liquid human blood, plasma, serum, and other blood derivatives that are waste (e.g. blood in blood bags, blood and/or bloody drainage in suction containers).
- (b) Items such as gauze or bandages, saturated or dripping with human blood, including items produced in dental procedures, such as gauze or cotton rolls saturated or dripping with saliva. Included are contaminated items that could release blood or related fluids if compressed.

Class 4 and Class 7 – All used (class 4) and unused (Class 7) sharps. Pasteur pipettes, scalpel blades, blood collection tubes and vials, test tubes, needles attached to tubing, and culture dishes.

4. General:

- a. RMW is generated during field training exercises, ranges, or during instances where a combat lifesaver is needed.
- b. RMW must be disposed of properly to protect the safety of those personnel that could come in contact with it, and to prevent the possibility of federal and state environmental fines.

5. Responsibility:

- a. The EQO is responsible for:
 - 1) Disseminating the information in this Guidance and Instruction to all parties in his/her unit,
 - 2) Ensuring his/her unit is disposing of RMW properly.

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6. Instructions:

a. RMW should be placed in RMW red bags or sharps containers and marked with the unit and date of disposal. Sharps containers must be taped across the top of containers. Do not place sharps containers in red bags. Red bags and sharps containers are Class VIII items and can be purchased through the Division Medical Supply Office (DMSO). The RMW should be transported to either Lapointe Health Clinic (LHC) located on Desert Storm Avenue, Bldg. 5979, phone – 956-0312, or TMC #5 located on Hedge Row Road, Bldg 7149, phone – 798-8625. RMW from LHC and TMC # 5 is picked up by housekeeping from Blanchfield Army Community Hospital and transported back to the hospital for disposal.

b. During non-duty hours, units may take the RMW directly to the hospital boiler plant loading dock, Bldg 650. Upon arrival, contact the maintenance person in the boiler room, who will in turn contact housekeeping at 798-5445. The boiler plant is located directly behind you as you face the hospital loading dock. Inform the supervisor that you just came in from the field and need to dispose of RMW. Ensure the RMW is either in a red bag or sharps container. Do not leave the RMW on the loading dock. Do not transport the RMW in your POV.

c. If RMW is generated off post, it can also be brought back to Ft. Campbell, following the above procedures.

7. Additional Guidance:

a. For additional guidance and information, and answers to your questions, contact the Solid Waste & Recycling Program Manager, PWBC Environmental Division, 798-9782.

b. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab Number 16* in your Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook.